

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/719,056

Applicant(s)

ISHIBASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Salvatore Cangialosi

3621

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/3/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
SALVATORE CANGIALOSI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3621

**The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

With respect to independent claim 1, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of an information processing system which includes a server and one or more information processing apparatuses and enables the information processing apparatuses to purchase rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including: first preparation means, located at the server, for preparing a first usage control status which identifies first usage details describing purchased rights and pricing details corresponding to said first usage details; storage means for storing, located at the server, said encrypted information, said first usage control status, a usage control policy that contains a second use type that describes rights available for purchase at a subsequent time based on the first usage details of said purchased rights, price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to second usage details, and a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information; and second preparation means, located at the server, for preparing a second usage control status that identifies said second usage details and pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags, when rights are purchased again by said one or more information processing apparatuses; wherein said encrypted information is accessed, at a first information processing apparatus, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy, wherein said encrypted information is accessed, by a second information processing apparatus, using second rights, for a second pre-selected period of time, wherein the second information processing apparatus accesses said encrypted information independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information: and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 4, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of an information processing method for providing rights to encrypted information to one or more information processing apparatuses, including the steps of: preparing a first usage control status, at a server location, which identifies first usage details describing purchased rights and pricing details corresponding to said first usage details, for use by a first information processing apparatus; storing said encrypted information, at the server location, said first usage control status, a usage control policy that contains a second use type that describes rights that can be purchased again based on said purchased rights, price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to second usage details, and

a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information; preparing a second usage control status, at the server location, that identifies said second usage details and said pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags, when rights are purchased again through a second information processing apparatus; and a first access step of accessing said encrypted information, for a first pre-selected period of time, at the first information processing apparatus, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; and a second access step of subsequently accessing said encrypted information, for a second pre-selected period of time, at the second information processing apparatus, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 5, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of a providing medium, which provides a computer-readable program for executing a process at a server apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatus, which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, comprising the steps of: a first preparation step, at the server apparatus, of preparing a first usage control status which identifies first usage details describing purchased rights and pricing details corresponding to said first usage details; a storage step of storing, at the server, said encrypted information, said first usage control status, a usage control policy that, contains a second use type that describes rights that can be purchased again based on details of said purchased rights, price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, and a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information; a second preparation step of preparing, at the server, a second usage control status that identifies said second usage details and said pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags, when rights are purchased again through said one or more other information processing apparatuses; a first access step of accessing, at a first information processing apparatus, said encrypted information, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; and a second access step of subsequently accessing, at a second information processing apparatus, said encrypted information, for a second pre-selected period of time, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system

registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 6, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of a first information processing apparatus, which is connected to one or more second information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including: receiving means for receiving, at a first information processing apparatus, said encrypted information, a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information, and usage control status which identifies first usage details describing first purchase rights as well as first pricing details corresponding to said first usage details, wherein said receiving means receives second usage details describing second purchase rights and second pricing details corresponding to said second usage details; wherein said encrypted information is accessed, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy, by the first information processing apparatus; wherein said encrypted information is accessed, for a second pre-selected period of time, at one of more second information processing apparatus, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 7, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of an information processing method for a first information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more second information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including the steps of: a receiving step of receiving, at the first information processing apparatus, said encrypted information, a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information, and a usage control status which identifies first usage details describing first purchase rights as well as first pricing details corresponding to said first usage details, wherein said receiving step receives second usage details describing second purchase rights and second pricing details; a first access step of accessing, at the first information processing apparatus, said encrypted information, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; and a second access step of subsequently accessing, at one or more second information processing apparatus, said encrypted information, for a second pre-selected period of times, wherein the usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information

includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 8, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of a providing medium, which provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to a first information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more second information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including the steps of: a receiving step of receiving, at the first information processing apparatus, said encrypted information, a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information, and usage control status which identifies first usage details describing first purchased rights as well as first pricing details corresponding to said first usage details, wherein said receiving step receives second usage details describing second purchase rights and second pricing details; a first access step of accessing said encrypted information, at the first information processing apparatus, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; and a second access step of subsequently accessing said encrypted information, at one or more second information processing apparatus, for a second pre-selected period of time, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 9, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of an information processing system that enables the purchase of rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including; storage means for storing said encrypted information, at a second location, a usage control policy that contains usage details that describe purchasable rights, price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to said usage details, and a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information; and preparation means for preparing, at the server location, a usage control status which identifies said usage details and the pricing details corresponding to said usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored on said storage means; wherein said encrypted information is accessed, at a first information processing apparatus, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy, and wherein said encrypted information is accessed, at a second information processing apparatus, for a second pre-selected period of time, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the usage control status includes at least

system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 10, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of an information processing method for purchasing rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including the steps of: a storage step of storing at a server location, said encrypted information, a usage control policy that contains usage details that describe purchasable rights, price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to said usage details, and a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information; a preparation step of preparing, at the server location, a usage control status which identifies said usage details and the pricing details corresponding to said usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored during said storage step; a first access step of accessing said encrypted information, at a first information processing apparatus, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; and a second access step of subsequently accessing said encrypted information, at a second information processing apparatus, for a second pre-selected period of time, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 11, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of a providing medium, which provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to purchase rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including : a storage step of storing, at a server location, said encrypted information, a usage control policy that contains usage details that describe purchasable rights, price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to said usage details, and a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information; a preparation step of preparing, at the server location, a usage control status which identifies said usage details and the pricing details corresponding to said usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored during said storage step; a first access step of accessing said encrypted information, at a first information processing apparatus, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; and a second access step of subsequently accessing said encrypted information, at a second information processing apparatus, for a second pre-selected period of time, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the usage control status

includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 12, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of an information processing apparatus, which includes a server connected to one or more information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including: receiving means for receiving, at the server location, said encrypted information, a key adapted to decrypt said encrypted information, and a first usage control status which identifies a first use type describing predetermined rights and pricing details corresponding to said first use type; storage means for storing, at the server location, a usage control policy that contains second usage details that describe rights that can be purchased again based on said first usage control status and price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to said second usage details; and first preparation means for preparing, at the server location, a second usage control status which identifies said second usage details and pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored by said storage means; wherein said encrypted information is accessed, for a first pre-selected period of time, at the first information processing apparatus, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; wherein said encrypted information is accessed, for a second pre-selected period of time, at a second information processing apparatus, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus; wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 14, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of an information processing method for purchasing rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including : a receiving step of receiving, at a server location, said encrypted information, a key adapted to decrypt said encrypted information, and a usage control status which identifies a first use type describing predetermined rights and pricing details corresponding to said first use type; a storage step of storing a usage control policy, at the server location, that contains second usage details that describe rights that can be purchased again based on said first use type and price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to said second usage details; a first preparation step of preparing, at the server location, a second usage control status

which identifies said second usage details and pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored during said storage step; a first access step of accessing said encrypted information, at a first information processing apparatus, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; a second access step of subsequently accessing said encrypted information, at a second information processing apparatus, for a second pre-selected period of time, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus, wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, a subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 15, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of a providing medium, which provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to a first information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more second information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, including : a receiving step of receiving, at a server location, said encrypted information, a key adapted to decrypt said encrypted information, and a first usage control status which identifies a first use type describing predetermined rights and pricing details corresponding to said first use type; a storage step of storing, at the server location, a usage control policy that contains second usage details that describe rights that can be purchased again based on said first use type, and price tags that contain pricing details corresponding to said second usage details; a first preparation step of preparing, at the server location, a second usage control status which identifies said second usage details and the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored during said storage step; a first access step of accessing said encrypted information, at a first information processing apparatus, for a first pre-selected period of time, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy; and a second access step of subsequently accessing said encrypted information, at a second information processing apparatus, for a second pre-selected period of time, independent of a connection to the first information processing apparatus; wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 16, the prior art of record



fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of a computer-readable medium, storing program code for a method, for modifying a price associated with content, the program code when executed causes a processor to perform a process including : providing a first price associated with particular content; utilizing, at a first occurrence, at least a portion of the particular content at one or more reception locations, for a first pre-selected period of time; providing a second price associated with the particular content as a function of the utilizing step; utilizing, at a second occurrence, at least a portion of the particular content at one or more reception locations, the second utilization being for a second pre-selected period of time, and independent of a connection to one or more reception locations; generating billing information as a function of the first price and the second price; and determining a fee for the particular content based on the billing information; wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information; and wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention. With respect to independent claim 19, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed combination of an apparatus for modifying a price associated with content including: means for providing a first price associated with particular content; means for utilizing, at a first occurrence, at least a portion of the particular content at one or more reception locations; means for providing a second price associated with the particular content as a function of the means for utilizing; means for utilizing, at a second occurrence, at least a portion of the particular content at one or more reception locations; wherein said encrypted information is accessed for a first pre-selected period of time, at a first reception location, as a function of said purchased rights and usage control policy, wherein said encrypted information is accessed, at a second reception location, for a second pre-selected period of time, independent of a connection to one or more information processing apparatus; wherein the first usage control status and the second usage control status includes at least system registration information, wherein the system registration information includes at least an equipment number, a settlement number, account-settling user information, subordinate user information, and use point information; and means for generating billing information as a function of the first price and the second price in the manner and complexity explicitly recited in the claims of the invention

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and to avoid processing delays should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled Comments on Statement of

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Reasons for Allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Salvatore Cangialosi at telephone number **(571) 272-6927**. The examiner can normally be reached 6:30 Am to 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell, can be reached at **(571) 272-6712**.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**or faxed to (571)873-9300**

Hand delivered responses should be brought to


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Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 3600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3600**.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
STEVEN C. ENGLE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3621